

## Shahal to discuss Jerusalem issues

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has appointed Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on issues connected to Jerusalem, an Israeli official said Friday. Mr. Shahal's spokeswoman, Tamara Paul-Cohen, said that he would meet next week with Faisal Al Hussein, chosen by the PLO for the talks. "There are all kinds of problems associated with Jerusalem that were raised by the Palestinians in Cairo and the prime minister appointed Minister Shahal to deal with these," she told Reuters. Mr. Shahal and Mr. Hussein will discuss easing the Israeli closure on Arab East Jerusalem to allow Palestinians access for the purposes of trade, studies and medical services, she said. Mr. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat agreed at their first working meeting in Cairo Wednesday to appoint negotiators to discuss Palestinian access to Jerusalem. Ms. Paul-Cohen said the status of Jerusalem would not be addressed in the talks between Mr. Shahal and Mr. Hussein. "Jerusalem itself is not a subject for negotiations," she said.

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## Jordanian, Pakistani beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Jordanian and a Pakistani were beheaded Friday for drug smuggling, the Interior Ministry announced. The Jordanian, identified as Atiyeh Ben Ayed Ben Khelef Al Dehayem, was beheaded in Arar, a town close to the Saudi border with Jordan, after a Sharia court convicted him of smuggling hashish into the country. The Pakistani, Raheem Kol Kol Raheem, was beheaded in Riyadh where he was convicted for smuggling heroin, according to the ministry.

## Israelis search for Palestinian guerrillas

TYRE (AFP) — The Israeli army Friday mounted a massive search in South Lebanon for three Palestinian members of the Islamic Jihad who wounded an Israeli soldier in an attack Thursday. Around 200 soldiers, backed by armoured cars, erected 14 roadblocks in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, and conducted minute searches of traffic passing through, a security source said. Israeli military sources said on Thursday that a motorised patrol came under automatic gunfire as it crossed the border from the "security zone" into Israel, with one soldier slightly wounded. The attackers were in the "security zone" when they opened fire. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement released Friday. Earlier Friday, the Israelis shelled ravines in the north of the "security zone" used by infiltrating groups, Lebanese police said.

## Israeli official visited Qatar, daily says

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A senior Israeli official has paid a first visit to Qatar to discuss establishing economic links between the Jewish state and the Gulf monarchy, the daily Haaretz reported Friday. The visit followed a secret meeting last week between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Ben Jaber Al Thani at the United Nations in New York, the paper said. The Israeli minister also had talks in New York with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali, according to the paper, which said Mr. Peres refused to confirm or deny the report. Government sources said the talks with Qatar showed that the Arabs were moving towards a thawing of relations with Israel, which only has diplomatic ties with Egypt.

## Egypt detains opposition leader

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police are holding an opposition party leader who published a newspaper article challenging President Hosni Mubarak to give a public accounting of arms contracts. State prosecutors said Friday that Helmy Murad, vice-president of the Socialist Labour Party, was detained on Thursday along with two journalists from the party newspaper, Al Shabab. Mr. Murad, a 74-year-old diabetic who was once minister of education, was kept overnight in a small cell in a Cairo police station. Officials would not say whether he faced charges.

## General Assembly lifts S. Africa sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. General Assembly on Friday voted to lift economic sanctions against South Africa, in line with a call from African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela. Most sanctions will be lifted immediately, but an oil embargo adopted in 1986 will be maintained until the transitional executive council becomes operational, the resolution adopted by consensus by the assembly said.

## Israel reviews its plans for pullout, settlers' 'security'

### Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — The army presented Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin with plans Friday on how to protect Israeli settlers under its withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip, military sources said.

Mr. Rabin, who is also defense minister, heard the plans at a meeting ahead of Wednesday's negotiations with the Palestinians on the details of Israeli withdrawal and implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

Military officials proposed laying roads bypassing Palestinian communities and refugee camps as well as building electric fences and observation posts in areas near the "most exposed" settlements in the Gaza Strip, they said.

The officials, including Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, also called for close cooperation between Israeli authorities, including the Shin Beth domestic intelligence service, and the new Palestinian police force.

The projects could cost Israel between \$180 to \$250 million, the sources said.

General Barak illustrated the plans with maps and slides during the meeting at the defense ministry in Tel Aviv, where several dozen right-wingers protested the autonomy accord.

Mr. Rabin then briefed his cabinet in the ministry building about the defense plans and about his meeting in Cairo last Wednesday with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Chairs Yasser Arafat.

Another planning session will be held at the chief of staff's office on Sunday.

Israel and the PLO are to begin two sets of detailed talks, on implementation of the autonomy plan and on Israeli troop withdrawal, in Egypt on the day the peace deal goes into effect.

The talks were announced during the Rabin-Arafat meeting.

"If all goes according to plan, in March '94 we will transfer Gaza and Jericho," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

"Until then we need to reach the most important arrangements on operations of (Israeli) security forces facing a Palestinian police force," Mr. Shahal told Israel Radio.

Under the terms of the accord for autonomy beginning in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, Jewish settlements are to remain in place and the army will be responsible for their security.

Mr. Rabin had asked the army to study ways to protect the some 120,000 settlers living in the territories.

Israel Radio reported that Mr. Rabin told his cabinet that Israeli officials were ready to negotiate, but that the PLO "does not appear to be organized" to start the talks.

The radio reported that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will head the delegation negotiating the implementation of the plan.

But the appointment was not confirmed in the cabinet meeting because the Israelis are waiting for the PLO to announce the composition of its delegation, Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said.

"We must first wait until the PLO publishes its list at the start of next week and we will decide then," Mr. Ben Eliezer told the radio.

Mr. Ben Eliezer also added that he had "not the slightest doubt" that Syria will continue to negotiate with Israel and will not hinder negotiations with the Palestinians in an active manner."

Gen. Uzi Dayan, nephew of the late Moshe Dayan, defence minister during the 1967 war when Israel seized the Gaza Strip and West Bank, is to head the delegation in the talks on troop withdrawal, officials said earlier.

The military talks will be held in the Egyptian Red Sea port of Taba.

A ministerial-level liaison committee overseeing implementation, headed by Mr. Peres, will meet in Cairo, according to the radio.

Cabinet Secretary Shimon Shves said that Mr. Arafat told Mr. Rabin in Cairo Wednesday: "Let's speak like cousins."

After recalling the remark, Mr. Shves told the radio:

"We have to continue living together with the Palestinians in the Middle East, and besides, as far as I can remember, we were cousins once."



Arab construction workers build on the roof of a building in Gaza City. Israelis and Palestinians will meet 13 Oct. start of the Gaza and Jericho

first self-rule, to settle the overall structure of the interim self-government, the structure of the (autonomy) council and the modality of its elections.

## Fateh leaders meet in bid to shore up autonomy deal

### Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat and his supporters sought Friday to reassert their leadership in the face of opposition within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to the peace accord.

Sources said Mr. Arafat sent Mahmud Abbas, who signed the accord with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, to Morocco to try to persuade Khalid Al Hassan to attend the meetings but he refused.

Khalid Al Hassan visited Damascus earlier this week for talks with the Syrian-backed Palestinian rejectionist groups who are trying to form a broad front in opposition to the peace deal.

The committee meeting was called by Mr. Arafat ahead of a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) due on Sunday. The council is a key policy-making body in between sessions of the larger Palestine National Council.

The 107-member council is to discuss and vote on the agreement signed between Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13. It also will be asked to ratify recommendations by Mr. Arafat for Palestinians' plans to take over authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho after an Israeli withdrawal.

Many of the Fateh officials who opposed the agreement with Israel have informed Mr. Arafat they still reject the deal, the sources said. But the rejectionists promised to voice their opposition only within the confines of the committee meeting to avoid damaging the movement.

Under the terms of the agreement, Israel will start transferring authority to the Palestinians in areas such as education, health, welfare, taxation and tourism later in the year.

Two senior leaders of Fateh who oppose the peace accord

did not attend the meeting, Khalid Al Hassan, a founder of the group with Mr. Arafat in the 1950s, and his brother Hani have criticised the agreement as a sellout to the Israelis.

Sources said Mr. Arafat sent Mahmud Abbas, who signed the accord with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, to Morocco to try to persuade Khalid Al Hassan to attend the meetings but he refused.

Hani Al Hassan visited Damascus earlier this week for talks with the Syrian-backed Palestinian rejectionist groups who are trying to form a broad front in opposition to the peace deal.

Apart from the Syria-based

rejectionists, the main opponent of the deal is the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, which is waging war with Mr. Arafat for political influence in the occupied territories.

So far, the rejectionists have failed to derail the peace accord.

In Amman, a statement by 26 Jordan-based PCC members voiced their rejection of the PLO-Israel peace accord and accused Mr. Arafat of trying to turn the council into a rubber stamp.

"We reiterate our rejection to the Gaza-Jericho agreement ... and we consider what was signed by the PLO leadership as not committing the Palestinian people or the PLO because it is inconsistent with national Palestinian principles," said the signatories, who belong to hard-line Palestinian factions.

Leaders of a 10-member alliance opposed to the peace accord met in Damascus Friday on forming a new Palestinian leadership to

replace Mr. Arafat.

Officials at the meeting said the alliance would make preparations for a general conference of all Palestinian groups opposed to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule deal to elect a new Palestinian leadership.

"Arafat expelled himself by himself from the PLO when he cancelled the PLO's charter and endorsed an agreement with Israel which ignored the rights of the Palestinian people," Abu Ali Mustafa, deputy leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said.

He told Reuters before taking his seat at the meeting that the alliance would discuss how to ensure the continuation of the uprising against Israel and to set up military attacks against Israel.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, deputy leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas, an active group with a strong base in the Israeli-occupied territories but not a member of the PLO, said he hoped the general conference would be held within one month.

Delegates also hoped to "announce a unified national front aimed at reestablishing the unity of the PLO and boycotting all the institutions and elections resulting from the autonomous authorities in Gaza and Jericho," a source close to the meeting said.

The meeting also stressed the unity of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Movements attending the meeting were the Hamas, PFLP, and the four factions of the pro-Syria National Palesti-

(Continued on page 3)

## Clinton beefs up Somalia forces

### Combined agency dispatches

THE BODIES of two American soldiers have been recovered from Sunday night's fierce street battle in the Somali capital, raising the death toll to 15, U.N. military spokesman said Friday.

Captain Tim McDavitt said the two bodies were brought in over the last couple of days to one of the U.S. compounds in Mogadishu. They have not been identified, he said.

Captain McDavitt also confirmed that a Red Cross delegate visited a captured American helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant, and took away a letter Mr. Durant wrote to his family. No information was available on Mr. Durant's condition.

The fighting Sunday night and early Monday also killed a Malaysian peacekeeper and wounded 77 Americans. At least three U.S. soldiers are still missing.

A diplomatic source in

Mogadishu said the body of a third American had been found. But Capt. McDavitt said he could not confirm that.

Confirmation that two bodies were recovered raises the U.S. death toll in the Somalia operation to 31 since it began last December. Ninety-nine peacekeepers from other nations also have died.

U.S. military reinforcements despatched by President Bill Clinton arrived in Mogadishu Friday with the first of their new armour as a Red Cross official saw the U.S. pilot held by Somali gunmen.

A Galaxy C5 cargo plane of the U.S. Force landed some of the soldiers at the airport here as well as Bradley M2 combat vehicles, under the watchful guard of Rangers of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force (QRF).

Red Cross official Suzanne Hofstetter meanwhile said she had seen Mr. Durant, finding him in "good spirits" when she was allowed to speak privately with him about 40 minutes.

She added that the International Committee of the Red Cross had recovered a body believed to be that of a U.S. Army Ranger killed on Sunday in the fierce battle that saw Durant's helicopter shot down.

Mr. Durant was "joking about food, about the lack of pizza," Ms. Hofstetter stated, adding that he was "strongly" and had "received medical treatment" for his injuries.

In Washington, President

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. wants Syria to leave Lebanon

### Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Friday for Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon to pave the way for a Middle East peace settlement.

But the secretary, who was meeting in Washington with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, said the pullout was not key to the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel.

"The principal purpose of the track between Lebanon and Israel is to work out the specific problems between the two countries," he said.

On Thursday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa met with President Clinton. A White House statement described the 20-minute meeting as "constructive" and said Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharaa he was committed to a "comprehensive peace" in the region between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

The United States believes in both the letter and the spirit of the accords," said Mr. Christopher.

"We think the accords ought to be respected and carried out," he said, adding however: "We do not think they are central to the bilateral" negotiations between the two countries.

He returned to Lahore right after the meeting.

There was no immediate word on the contents of the talks.

(Continued on page 3)

ties.

In the ongoing Middle East peace talks, Lebanon was called for Israel to give up the "security zone" it established inside the Lebanese border to prevent attacks on its territory while Israel is asking for a peace agreement.

Mr. Bouez said Israel's agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to establish limited self-rule in the occupied territories should be followed by accords with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

On Thursday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa met with President Clinton. A White House statement described the 20-minute meeting as "constructive" and said Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharaa he was committed to a "comprehensive peace" in the region between Israel and all its Arab neighbours.

Mr. Sharaa, the highest-ranking Syrian official to hold talks here in nearly 20 years, has called for an overall settlement and accused Israel of stalling after concluding the agreement with the PLO.

Mr. Clinton told Mr. Sharaa

positive results."

Syria announced Thursday it had rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposal made at a news conference in Cairo for secret negotiations with Damascus to resolve differences holding up the peace talks.

State-run Radio Damascus said Syria rejected "behind-the-scenes negotiations" and accused Israel of trying to circumvent the Washington talks.

Mr. Rabin made his offer to Syria after he and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat held their first working meeting in Cairo Wednesday.

They agreed to start four parallel sets of negotiations to implement the Sept. 13 declaration of principles.

In a commentary on Thursday, Radio Damascus said: "Israel knows that Syria rejects behind-the-scenes negotiations, since Syria has nothing to say secretly that contradicts its public pronouncements."

"It is common knowledge that Israel, which remained reluctant to the last moment to join the Madrid peace process, has been working to destroy this (Madrid) formula."

# Middle East News

## Iraq divulges arms suppliers

Combined Agency  
despatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq provided the U.N. with information about arms suppliers on Friday, but a top U.N. envoy said Baghdad still had not fully complied with ceasefire terms. "We have as a matter of fact last night received the answers at the Iraqi cabinet which has approved the release of data which we have requested," Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the United Nations Special Commission (UNESCOM) on Iraq, told Reuters.

He said his experts were attending a meeting to receive data on Iraq's former arms suppliers. Iraq had stalled on weapons procurement data for more than a year despite repeated U.N. requests.

"Of course it is not a matter of full compliance at this stage... there are more things to be done," Mr. Ekeus said.

He said the Iraqis needed to put forth more effort if they wanted a clean bill of health from him.

Asked whether Iraq's weapons file remains still open, he said: "Yes. It is indeed for us... in biological, chemical and missiles there are still more things to be done."

But concerning Iraq's nuclear capability, he said: "My feeling is it appears that IAEA thinks more has been achieved in that area."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been entrusted with scrapping Iraq's nuclear programme. More than a year ago, senior IAEA inspectors said Iraq's once-secret nuclear programme was dead but cautioned against its revival in the absence of future control.

Baghdad wants the U.N. to remove sanctions which have blocked shipments of Iraqi oil, the country's main export. The sanctions were imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus, who arrived in Iraq last Friday, declined to describe Iraqi answers as final saying they needed to be analysed and assessed. "We need all our resources to evaluate," he said.

But he said Iraq's agreeing to supply the answers was a step in the right direction.

"It is a positive step indeed and the effort from our side has now started to gain some results," he said. "We think considerable progress has been achieved."

"In some areas there'll be talks about compliance, it will appear at least in bits and pieces," he said.

Under Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is compelled to rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction, means to produce them and accept a strict U.N. mechanism to control and monitor its arms industry.

Full compliance on these issues may lead to an easing or lifting of the oil embargo on

Iraq imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus said he had no timetable in mind for a review of the sanctions.

He made clear that for Iraq to have the sanctions lifted or eased it needs clearance in several areas.

"On the technical side, of course, considerable progress has been achieved. But there are not only technical sides to be cleared, there is more work to be done," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he would be meeting Iraq's deputy prime minister Tareq Aziz to sign a report concluding the work of this session.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayir has predicted that they would soon lift the embargo on Iraq.

Mr. Khudayir told reporters only "technical details" remained to be cleared in talks with U.N. negotiators. Any decision on sanctions depends on their report to the Security Council on Iraq's compliance with U.N. orders controlling Iraqi armaments.

"Of course the embargo will be lifted because the Iraqi people have done all that was required of us," Mr. Khudayir told a group of reporters accompanying former Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin on a two-day visit to Baghdad.

It was the first official comment from Baghdad on ongoing secret talks with Mr. Ekeus.

Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi told the same group of reporters he expected the talks to be concluded in the next two days.

"We are hopeful because we have fulfilled all our commitments with regard to Resolution 687," Mr. Hummadi said. He referred to the U.N. cease-

fire resolution stripping Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and setting compensation from Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait.

All that remained were "some technical discussions regarding future monitoring and other questions relating to Resolution 687," he said. "We expect these will be solved within the next week."

At the United Nations, Iraq urged the international community Thursday to support its demand for an end to the U.N. sanctions.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saad Al-Safah also called for a lifting of the "no fly" bans enforced since the end of the Gulf war.

"A single power, i.e. the United States of America, has sought to control the manner in which the U.N. addresses international issues and steers it in accordance with U.S. interests," Mr. Safah said.

In a speech to the General Assembly that made no mention of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he said the United States had "not found it enough to perpetrate the milit-

ary aggression it launched against Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991."

That date marked the start of air strikes by a U.S.-led coalition that a few weeks later drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Mr. Al Sahaf said other acts of aggression had been carried out "under various false pretenses," including "some unfounded allegations claiming there was a conspiracy against the life of former President George Bush."

He said Iraq found itself in a situation not experienced by any other U.N. founding member, including sanctions which deprived its people of basic human needs, prevented the export of its natural resources — oil — froze its assets and prevented the use of its civil aircraft and ships.

Referring to U.N. weapons teams sent to find and scrap Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, he said Iraq had cooperated, in compliance with Security Council resolutions, but the council had not fulfilled its obligation to lift the three-year-old sanctions.

"We hereby call upon all countries of the world to support our initiative for dialogue and understanding to prevail between the council and Iraq, so that this may lead without delay to the lifting of the unjust and iniquitous blockade imposed on our country, instead of resorting to the methods of coercion, threat and aggression," he said.

He urged the international community to consider Iraq's demand for its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity to be respected and for the removal of the "no fly zones" illegally imposed on parts of Iraq.

This was a reference to bans, enforced by the United States and its main Gulf war allies on Iraqi flights over northern and southern regions of the country.

Mr. Al Sahaf said the sanctions were "geared towards destroying Iraqi society" and that the importing even of paint for school desks, pencils, notebooks, medical equipment and hospital air conditioning units had been barred.

"The result has been a huge increase in mortality amongst children and the elderly, due to the grave shortage of medicines," he said.

**Nuclear fuel removal**

The United Nations has shipped about 170 tonnes of equipment to Iraq to remove remaining stocks of nuclear fuel, a senior U.N. inspector said.

"We have received the first shipment of equipment which is needed to remove the fuel," Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director (IAEA), told Reuters.

Mr. Zifferero said the material which will be used to transport the nuclear fuel to Russia had been brought in aboard an

Antonov cargo plane.

Last June, Russia won a contract to remove about 40 kilogrammes of radioactive fuel from Iraq. U.N. inspectors said it was enough to make one or two nuclear bombs.

"All the equipment needed for the removal operations is now in Iraq," Mr. Zifferero said, adding that the operation would take several months and cost tens of millions of dollars.

"The removal will consist of two shipments. There'll be an interval of approximately a month between the two... and we hope to complete the whole operation by early spring next year," he said.

The used fuel is under IAEA's custody at two locations in and around Tuweitha, Iraq's main nuclear centre, 20 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The fuel will be shipped by air to Russia but will have to be trucked from Tuweitha to Habaniya airport about 60 kilometres southwest of Baghdad.

Mr. Zifferero said the remaining irradiated uranium stocks were the last known amounts left in Iraq.

**Saudi urges beefed up defence**

Saudi Arabia's military commander during the Gulf war said Wednesday the Gulf states could not afford to rely on Western help in any future conflict in the region and should take steps to guarantee their own defence.

"It would be my view to be the greatest long-term mistake to place our security in the hands of others, however friendly and well-intentioned," Prince Khaled Ben Sultan said. "We must do more for ourselves."

Prince Khaled, one of Saudi King Fahd's nephews, said western governments were cutting back their defence budgets and the United States in particular may be retreating from its international commitments.

"The possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the years ahead may make the west even more reluctant to step in when its help is needed in the region," the retired general said in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London.

"The next time around, we may have to face the music alone," he said.

Prince Khaled, like Saudi Arabia's current government and other Islamic states, criticised the West for what he said was a failure to intervene on behalf of what he called a " beleaguered, outgunned people," a reference to Bosnia's Muslims.

He said this was partly because "Western states see none of their vital interests threatened by the tragedy unfolding in the Balkans." The threat posed by Iraq to Gulf oil supplies to the West was one of the issues at stake in the 1991 Gulf war.

Critics and supporters agree that success or failure

## Is Clinton rolling political dice in Somali stand-off?

By Charles Aldinger  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Whether he likes it or not, President Bill Clinton may be rolling the political dice in tattered Somalia.

Experts say he is gambling with U.S. prestige and perhaps his own political future in dispatching a relatively small additional number of U.S. troops and tanks to help stabilise Mogadishu, now ravaged by guerrillas, in the next six months.

Tenacious fighters of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed, firing rocket-propelled grenades from rooftops and behind walls, have outmatched American and other U.N. troops in battle after battle over the past two months.

Aided retired army General Ernest Graves of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies: "It can be done, but it will probably mean more killing than we have seen before, including American troops."

### NEWS ANALYSIS

One administration official bridged at demands in Congress for immediate withdrawal, saying that "all of the humanitarian progress of the past eight months could go down the tubes."

Pentagon officials are privately expressing worry that U.S. military prestige, shredded in the ignominious retreat from Vietnam and rebuilt in the Gulf war, was again being put on the line in Somalia, a country where the United States has virtually no strategic interest.

"Helicopters are nice, but it's so damned hard to fight in a street environment where you don't know who the enemy is and you're trying to keep from killing innocent civilians," said an army special forces colonel, who asked not to be identified.

Mr. Clinton stressed that America could not "cut and run" from Somalia to avoid more troop casualties, because it must finish the humanitarian job of eliminating starvation and leaving a reasonably stable society "on our terms."

France on Thursday joined Italy in criticising the tactics of U.S. forces in Mogadishu, saying the operations there were already marked by "faults and excesses."

The foreign ministry in Paris said 1,100 French troops, serving alongside American forces in the U.N. peacekeeping and relief operation would be withdrawn as planned by January despite a U.N. plea to stay.

"On a continent where France has historically had a major political and social stake, that tells you something about the quagmire in Mogadishu," lamented a senior Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified.

"The debate is really on why are we there," he said.

"The humanitarian mission was one that we all supported and should support. That's changed into something that we chase after a warlord, who simply will be replaced by another warlord if we caught him," Mr. Leahy said.

"That's not a policy that the American people support."

## JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1993

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kuwait MP seeks data on officials' wealth

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament hopes to pass a law allowing authorities probing corruption to examine personal wealth of senior officials, a lawmaker says. Acting speaker Ahmad Baqer told Reuters Kuwait's opposition-dominated assembly hoped to pass the legislation in the 1993/94 session starting on Oct. 26 to help any officials called upon to investigate future corruption. "The law would be passed in case of future incidents. I do not envisage it being used for current events," he said Thursday by telephone. He did not elaborate on the proposed law. The assembly would also try to pass a law that would allow the courts, subject to the assent of parliament, to try government ministers suspected of corruption. Mr. Baqer said that at the moment ministers could be tried only with the assent of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Kuwaitis are angry over alleged corruption and mismanagement inside a multi-billion dollar worldwide investment empire meant to fund the country when the oil runs out. Estimates of the worth of the fund, valued at about \$100 billion before the start of Iraq's seven-month 1990-91 occupation, range from \$20 billion to \$40 billion. The asset drop was due mostly to Gulf war expenses. But parliamentarians say at least some of the fall was due to years of wrongdoing in a range of state investment bodies for whom a number of government ministers are ultimately responsible.

#### Protests in Sudan over fuel shortage

CAIRO (R) — Police in Sudan fired tear gas and made charges with motorcycles to break up crowds protesting against a crippling shortage of petrol, a Sudanese newspaper based in Cairo said Thursday. The newspaper, Al Khartoum, said the protest happened on Tuesday in Omdurman, which lies across the Nile from the Sudanese capital Khartoum. It reported that demonstrations erupted on Monday and continued in three areas of the city on Wednesday. The newspaper said there had been similar protests in wad Medani, a city on the Nile 170 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, where demonstrators burned a government vehicle. Police used tear gas to disperse them and some were injured. Salah Mohammad Ibrahim, press counsellor at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, confirmed there had been protests but said they were small and scattered. "It is true that there are some scattered demonstrations because of the problems of transport due to the shortage of supplies of gas and oil," he told Reuters. "But I don't think it is in a very big scale. It is very small." Asked about details of the newspaper report, Mr. Ibrahim said: "I think it is a sort of exaggeration."

#### Gunmen kill three in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Gunmen shot dead three civilians and seriously wounded two in the suburbs of Algiers, the official news agency APS said Thursday. APS, quoting security services, described the gunmen as terrorists — the official term for fundamentalists fighting to set up an Islamic state. Hundreds of people have been killed in a wave of violence in the last 21 months blamed on Muslim fundamentalist activists. The violence erupted after the army-backed authorities scrapped the country's first multi-party elections after a first round of voting in December 1991. The now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had a massive lead in the poll.

#### Egypt to host WTO conference in 1995

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AFP) — Egypt has been unanimously chosen to host the 11th World Tourism Organisation (WTO) general assembly in 1995, an organising official with the 10th conference here said Friday. All 121 full member countries, four associate members, and some 240 affiliate members of the WTO voted for Egypt, the official said. The current five-day conference in the resort island of Bali was scheduled to end Friday. Morocco, Egypt's rival bidder for the 11th conference, has been listed as a potential host for 1997 general assembly along with China, Russia and Turkey, he added.

#### Moroccan prisoners stage hunger strike

RABAT (R) — Six detainees at a civil prison in the central Moroccan city of Fez began a hunger strike of unlimited duration on Thursday to protest against a ban on visits from their families. In a statement to the media, they said that since Sept. 20 the prison administration had "prohibited that we meet visitors and we are completely isolated from the outside world." The prisoners are serving between five and 12 years for disturbing the peace. They staged three warning hunger strikes of 24, 48 and 72 hours each before deciding on a fast of unlimited duration.

#### Yemen's parliament to elect presidential council

SANA (R) — Yemen's parliament will elect a new five man presidential council Monday to replace the current team headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose term expires this month. The surprise decision Thursday followed widespread reports that following Yemen's first direct parliamentary elections last April a new president would be directly elected by the country's seven million voters. Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) is the largest party in the 301-member assembly. Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baidh has remained in his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) stronghold of Aden for the past two months after disagreements with Mr. Saleh's party over the way the next president should be chosen. Mr. Baidh, whose party has less than half the GPC's 142 parliamentary seats, was pressing for a constitutional amendment to make the presidential council a directly elected body. Senior representatives of the three parties in the ruling, parliamentary coalition, the YSP, the GPC and the Islamist party Islah, had talks with Mr. Baidh last month but failed to persuade him to return to Sanaa. The official SABA news agency said preparations were underway for the parliamentary vote on Monday.

#### ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:45	New Delhi (RJ)
07:50	Karachi (RJ)
07:55	Cairo (RJ)
08:00	Beirut (RJ)
08:05	Dhaka (RJ)
08:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
08:25	Colombo (RJ)
08:45	Amman (RJ)
08:55	London (RJ)
09:00	Paris (RJ)
09:15	Paris (RJ)
09:30	Paris (RJ)
09:45	Paris (RJ)
10:00	Paris (RJ)
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11:30	Paris (RJ)
11:45</	

# Home News

## Princess Basma urges Mafraq women to help in development

MAFRAG (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma urged local women's unions in Mafraq to work on contributing towards the government's development.

Addressing a meeting Thursday in Mafraq of women representatives in the governorate, the Princess said, "a sound basis of cooperation and coordination is needed in attaining aspired goals."

She urged women's unions to define projects and give priority to matters designed to improve the standard of living of the local families.

Princess Basma reviewed the country's national strategy on

women, noting that it calls for short and long term plans aimed at improving the status of Jordanian women.

Speakers at the meeting demanded that local women be given preference in employment opportunities within their own governorate and requested that more kindergartens be set up and charitable organisations' work be encouraged and supported by the government.

Among those present were Governor Qasim Majali and Nadia Srour of the University of Jordan who spoke about the role of the women's sector in her region.

## Post offices to accept utility bill payments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Before the end of 1993, post offices around the country will begin accepting payment of telephone, water and electricity bills, according to Abdullah Al Jazi, Ministry of Post and Communications secretary general.

The ministry will soon announce the location of post offices in the Greater Amman area where telephone bills could be paid thus saving the public long waiting periods at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) centres. Dr. Al Jazi told Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

In an article published Friday, Dr. Al Jazi said long queues of subscribers were noticed at the TCC centres in Amman and other regions since the Housing Bank stopped processing the payment of the telephone bills on behalf of the TCC.

The ministry has 900 post offices which will collect utility bill payments from the public, said Dr. Al Jazi.

He added, that the post offices are currently handling student applications to universities, car licence renewals and matters related to the Civil

Development Department.

Also by the end of the year, postage stamps will be available at several pharmacies and major shopping centres, and post office boxes will be installed in each district, Mr. Al Jazi announced.

Furthermore, he said, the ministry is currently in contact with Greater Amman Municipality to arrange for home delivery of mail.

Referring to improvements in the main delivery system, Mr. Al Jazi said that any mail posted before 4 p.m., is sure to reach its destination the following day.

## WAJ says it will not increase water charges

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Friday said that there will be no further increases in water charges.

Although WAJ plans to increase revenues in order to continue to provide services, it does not intend to increase the price of water, said Kamal Zou'bi, director of WAJ's Subscribers Affairs Department.

He said the cost of new water supply pipes would be increased; the new costs are as follows: JD 88 for a three-quarter-inch pipe, JD 103 for a one-inch pipe, and JD 551 for a four-inch pipe.

The previous charge for all sizes, he noted, was JD 35.

An annual fee of JD 500 will be charged for the use of artesian wells, plus one fils per

each cubic metre pumped from such wells, added Mr. Zou'bi.

WAJ has decided to double the price of the authority's tank truck water from 500 fils to JD 1 per cubic metre, Mr. Zou'bi said.

Calling on the public to pay their water bills and thus help WAJ carry out expansion projects and repair damaged pipes, Mr. Zou'bi said that the authority's staff is ready to examine water meters and pipes at the request of subscribers.

Noting that recently WAJ has been receiving complaints about unusually high water bills, Mr. Zou'bi said that subscribers are asked to check their sanitary systems for leaks and to economize in watering gardens.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mrs. Lucy Martin at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Desert Rituals" by Egyptian artist Maha Ra'ouf at the Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Taib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Fuheis.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Dr. Ala Bashir and Sa'di Abbas at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubedi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfidi Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on nature and the township of Sakeh by artist Ghassan 'Ayyash at the Student Affairs Department at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Fannin of the Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Hussein Deas at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabataean Civilization" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.

### DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 p.m.

### BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.

## Queen meets with Hilary Clinton Tells Jerusalem Fund its work is crucial

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was the guest of honour at a banquet organised by the Jerusalem Fund for Education and Community Development Thursday to raise funds in support of the fund's programme providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Established in Washington, D.C. in 1977, the Jerusalem Fund seeks to improve and expand the educational, cultural and health institutions of the Palestinian community through financial assistance.

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of Jerusalem to all Arabs and Muslims "because it embodies the very essence of our human and pluralistic values — of a community of people of different religions or ethnic backgrounds living together in mutual respect and harmony, sharing moral principles, and honouring common prophets and patriarchs. Jerusalem should and must become a symbol of peace and brotherhood for all mankind."

The work of the fund is particularly crucial at this time, the Queen said, "when the Palestinian people may be standing on the threshold of a new era of national reconstitution and rebirth. Your example should now inspire Arabs throughout the world to cooperate more closely to assume their shared responsibilities and to protect their identity and common interests."

The Queen added that "the Arab Nation's legacy of humanity and hope must be revitalised and given practical expression throughout the Arab World. Peace, security, stability and development are the fundamental rights of all Arabs."

Also speaking at the banquet was the Most Reverend Sami Kafiti, Episcopal Bishop of Jerusalem, who reviewed the future role and importance of Jerusalem in a peace settlement.

Earlier that evening, Queen Noor addressed a reception held in her honour by the International Council for Women in the Arts (ICWA), in preparation for an exhibition of work by Arab women artists to be held in April

1994. The ICWA is a non-profit tax-exempt organisation, which is actively involved in promoting women's art from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It also maintains a data base of artists from these regions, which it shares with museums and universities in the United States.

The planned exhibition, tentatively titled "Arab Women in Transition: From the Traditional to the Contemporary," will feature works of Arab women artists from 15 countries. The exhibited works will include paintings, video works, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and tapestries.

The title of the exhibition is reflected in the common theme of all the works which blend centuries-old techniques from the Arab World with new forms of expression.

The exhibition is scheduled to open at the National Museum for Women in the Arts and is expected to tour the United States.

Queen Noor said "the exhibition is important and timely because it honours the

pioneers, young and old, of the major contemporary force for constructive changes in Arab societies — Arab women. It will remind us that art is not only the expression of individual character and personal visions, it is also a mirror of society itself, a cultural trust that artists pass on from one generation to another, a timeless record of who we are, where we came from, and what we seek."

"As we prepare to put behind us a different century that has seen the Arab World suffer almost perpetual warfare and ideological strife, we must join to promote cultural interaction among our peoples — in particular to promote understanding of the Arab World as a region of ancient and varied human culture, and not merely a stretch of strategic geography or the custodian of geological bounty," the Queen added.

The Queen was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Princess Ghida.

During her two-day visit to Washington the Queen also met with First Lady Hillary



Clinton at the White House, which took place Thursday. The meeting, focused on Middle East development, peace and other humanitarian issues of common concern.

Queen Noor Friday met with members of the advisory

board of the Center for the Study of the Global South.

The centre, established in 1991 by Dr. Clovis Maksoud, is devoted to the study of the role of the global south in a changing international world order. It is part of American University's School of International Service.

people in the occupied areas than the situation in Jordan."

He urged the organising of high level personal visits between the two countries so that Jordanian officials could appeal directly to the Japanese leadership about the Jordanian situation and likewise, such a visitor could directly appeal to the Japanese public — the taxpayers and ultimate source of decision making in their system, he said.

Similarly, he continued, a high level Japanese visitor to Jordan could learn directly the situation in this country and explain and appeal to the Jordanian side about Japanese policy.

He said that the role of Jordan-Japan Friendship Association can be crucially important in these efforts.

## Jordan-Japan Association suggests bilateral strategies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A great deal has been achieved since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Jordan and Japan in 1974, said Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser, president of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association (JJFA).

Sharif Jamil was welcoming guests at the reunion dinner of the JJFA Wednesday evening.

In reviewing some of the history of the two countries' bilateral cooperation, Sharif Jamil recalled that in 1937 the first Japanese trade mission visited Jordan to purchase horses.

"Looking at the number of Japanese cars on our roads today, one can conclude that we have exchanged horses for horsepower," said the JJFA president.

Japanese presence in Jordan, he said, has become an integral part of the network of

development.

Sharif Jamil praised the distinguished service of the active Japanese volunteers working in different parts of Jordan, in the fields of education, health, art, and agriculture.

He thanked the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, the government of Japan and the Japanese people for their willing assistance to Jordan.

Sharif Jamil also thanked Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda and his staff for their studies and recommendations which paved the way for this assistance "so much felt in different aspects of our lives, whether in the form of timely financial assistance, soft loans or technical know-how, and training programmes here in Jordan or in Japan."

The JJFA president re-

"Since I arrived here nine

months ago I have always been grateful for the kind words directed to my country by the ministers and many other people I met for the things my country did for Jordan at the time of the Gulf crisis. When I was back in Japan last week, I was also pleased to find that there seems to be an increased interest in the political and economic situation of Jordan on the part of many Japanese whom I met and who are in the political, bureaucratic and business quarters more or less exerting influence on our bilateral relations.

Ambassador Ikeda addressed the gathering at the Inter-Continental Hotel saying that the Jordan-Japan relationship has strengthened during the last few years since the Gulf crisis through intensified economic cooperation and mutual attention on the general public level."

But he said, "despite the

increased mutual understanding in the past few years, the level of knowledge about each other is still quite limited."

Ambassador Ikeda suggested that the Jordanian side exert efforts to know more about Japan, especially about how the system there works.

He added that the Japanese side must understand more about the delicate and important role that Jordan is playing and can play in the future in the region.

Mr. Ikeda said that the recent dramatic development in the Middle East peace process "will probably require all the more, mutual efforts to maintain and strengthen the bilateral relations since more attention of the world will be directed to the immediate problems of the Palestinian

people in the occupied areas than the situation in Jordan."

He urged the organising of high level personal visits between the two countries so that Jordanian officials could appeal directly to the Japanese leadership about the Jordanian situation and likewise, such a visitor could directly appeal to the Japanese public — the taxpayers and ultimate source of decision making in their system, he said.

Similarly, he continued, a high level Japanese visitor to Jordan could learn directly the situation in this country and explain and appeal to the Jordanian side about Japanese policy.

He said that the role of Jordan-Japan Friendship Association can be crucially important in these efforts.

day's snap poll.

Mir Murtaza Bhutto, self-exiled brother of Ms. Bhutto, has received an electoral rebuff in his bid to enter Pakistan's parliament, observers said.

Murtaza Bhutto was defeated in all three seats he contested from the family's home province of Sind in the elections.

The 39-year-old Damascus-based sole male heir of executed former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is also a candidate for the Sind assembly in the southern province.

His entry into the election arena, with the backing of mother Begum Nusrat, had triggered a family political row, embarrassing the PPP in the runup to the national polls.

Observers said the move was aimed at cleansing politics and establishing a system of accountability, as charges of corruption dominated the month-long run-up to Wednes-

The Election Commission

day's snap poll.

Newspapers described the situation after Wednesday's inconclusive elections as a crisis and reported that authorities — meaning the army which will supervise Saturday's provincial elections — was hoping to find a way to push Mr. Sharif and Ms. Bhutto into a compromise.

Jahangir Badar, the Punjab president of Ms. Bhutto's PPP who lost his bid for a National Assembly seat, said: "Unless we get a majority in Punjab, power at the centre will be meaningless. Past experience has shown that the government cannot implement its manifesto if it lacks a hold on Punjab."

The Election Commission

has instructed all new members of parliament submit lists of their assets within a week, saying they would be disqualified if they did not.

A commission statement

said each MP-elect must submit

a statement of all assets and liabilities owned by them, their spouse or dependents to the chief election commissioner (CEC) by Oct. 13.

If the election result of a

contesting who failed to submit his statement would not be officially gazetted.

Observers said the move was

aimed at cleansing politics and establishing a system of accountability, as charges of corruption dominated the month-long run-up to Wednes-

The Election Commission

day's snap poll.

President Clinton and his administration are digging themselves deeper," said Musa Sheik Mohamad, an Aideed follower and editor of the New Era newspaper.

"If they come and try to capture Aideed or kill him, there will be no victory, only a mess, a bath of blood."

## Pakistan tug-of-war moves to provinces

(Continued from page 1)

Clinton Friday defended Defense Secretary Les Aspin's initial decision not to increase equipment to U.S. troops in Somalia when it was suggested earlier.

"It was his best judgment," Mr. Clinton told reporters.

Mr. Clinton's support for his defence secretary stems from Mr. Aspin's recent decision to turn down the request of military commanders in Somalia for increased armoured equipment to protect American troops.

Mr. Aspin's rejection of that request preceded the deaths of at least 15 U.S. Army Rangers in fierce fighting in Mogadishu Sunday.

The U.S. president, during a brief exchange with reporters, also defended his decision to set a March 31 deadline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Somalia (see page 2).

"We have obligations elsewhere," he said, adding that the deadline would put U.S. forces in Somalia for more than one year longer than originally anticipated.

"I just don't believe that we can be in a position to stay any longer than that," said Mr. Clinton, who on Thursday publicly announced a doubling of the size of U.S. forces in Somalia.

At Mogadishu Airport, U.S. Rangers arriving Friday had strict orders not to speak to journalists, but some young soldiers had their word to say.

Sergeant Robert Canarios of

U.N. spokesman said relief work in the city was "considerably curtailed."

Many Somalis from warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's Habre Gedir clan, the bedrock of his close support in a country of dozens of clans, were worried but defiant at the prospect of the arrival of more U.S. troops.

"President Clinton and his administration are digging themselves deeper," said Musa Sheik Mohamad, an Aideed follower and editor of the New Era newspaper.

"If they come and try to capture Aideed or kill him, there will be no victory, only a mess, a bath

## Jordan Times

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## Building of framework

THERE IS increasing talk by Israel about a tripartite accord linking the Jewish state to Jordan and Palestine. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres echoed this sentiment at the opening of the Socialist International in Lisbon a few days ago when he said: "We need this triangle... I can see an agreement between Jordanians and ourselves." Mr. Peres also told his audience that the final aim of the ongoing peace process was "independence for all and to live as real neighbours." The Israeli foreign minister had more than political settlements on his mind when he added that "if you allow independence but you do not allow economic development, it will be a failure."

This new Israeli drive strikes us as premature at best at this stage of the negotiating process. The PLO-Israeli deal still has a long way to go before it can take definite shape and form. Jordan cannot be expected to jump on the bandwagon of normalisation, to the point of signing economic accords, without first testing the Israeli intentions on the ground. Furthermore, the Kingdom cannot at this juncture be more forthcoming and accommodating than it has been on its role in the implementation of the interim part of the PLO-Israeli accord. The self-rule envisioned for the Palestinians should take deeper roots before we can boast of reaching real peace with Israel.

It is common knowledge by now that even this interim self-rule for the Palestinians on the basis of Gaza-Jericho first formula cannot see the light of day without the full cooperation of Jordan. Hence, the close and inevitable link between the fate of the Palestinians and that of their brethren in the Kingdom. But only at the conclusion of the five years of transition period that should lead to greater independence for the Palestinians can Jordan find it feasible and viable to complete the process for comprehensive peace arrangements. If Palestine is to enjoy a commonality of economic interests with both Israel and Jordan, then obviously something needs to be worked out to institutionalise, regulate and control this broader scheme for the Middle East.

Needless to say, all this talk about grand designs for the future in the area is contingent on registering real progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. True and lasting peace cannot be achieved without participation and full cooperation of Damascus and Beirut. That is why there is a pressing need to deliver on the much awaited breakthrough on the Syrian front as well. Pragmatism and enlightened planning would not exclude the full partnership of Damascus as well in the so-called tripartite order with a view to including both Syria and Lebanon in any future regional economic cooperation. Such a vision for the future cannot succeed if Israel remains selective in its perspective and piecemeal in its approach. The Fertile Crescent concept, incorporating the historical Fertile Crescent states of the area, appears to hold more promise than a mere tripartite framework that may be interpreted as an exclusive club posing a threat on other countries of the Arab World. But this is only one option to contemplate and entertain for the future. There are other frameworks in which peace with justice can survive and prosper to serve the real interests of all the peoples in the region. These frameworks have to be designed, arrived at and agreed upon from within, however. They cannot be imposed from the outside and they certainly cannot be shaped by Israel unilaterally waving its magic wand.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i daily said that the PLO had committed a blunder by accepting the Gaza-Jericho option at a time when it was in its power to continue negotiating with the Israelis and the Americans and achieve immediate self-rule for the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Fahed Fanek said that the American proposal that was earlier rejected by the PLO had provided for better gains for the Palestinians, had the Palestinians accepted the American document, there would not have been any need for the Oslo secret talks and the PLO-Israel deal that limited self-rule at this stage to Gaza and Jericho alone, added the writer. At the same time, he said, the Palestine National Council did not give the PLO leadership the green light to accept the separate deal with the Israelis in its present form. The only interpretation for the strange behaviour of the PLO leadership at this stage is that the PLO leadership had resorted to the separate deal with Israel in order to save its own skin and not to save Palestine, charged the writer. At the same time, Israel won by securing from this leadership a recognition by the Palestinians of its legitimate existence in the land of Palestine, he added.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour expressed the view that Israel is now trying to achieve, through economic means, hegemony over the Arab region which it had failed to fulfil by military force. Mohammad Kawash said that Israel is planning to impose its hegemony over the Arab and Islamic nations of the region through a peace formula that would entail linking the cities of the region through a network of roads and other forms of communication.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

### No more docile, Jordan asserts national interests

THE NET outcome of Jordanian diplomacy spearheaded personally by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Washington and New York in the past two weeks has totally demolished speculation that the Jordanian role in the Middle East was being marginalised.

If anything, the meeting the Crown Prince had with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the American president's underlining of the Kingdom's pivotal slot in the Middle East and the enthusiastic Arab League endorsement of the Jordanian address to the United Nations General Assembly as an embodiment of the Arab quest for peace as well as the discussions Prince Hassan held with Arab-American leaders have indicated that the Kingdom has restaked an undisputable position in the regional and international scene.

Western journalists may even have to scan through their vocabulary to replace their catch-phrase "the small tin-pot Kingdom" to describe Jordan. Indeed we are small, but in the emerging political scenario, Jordan's weight has gone beyond the expectations of many.

No longer does Jordan have to look over its shoulder and wait for others at the expense of its own national interests in the quest for a secure and stable Middle East. Future generations cannot point a finger at Jordan as having sidestepped their interests since the Jordanian approach remains very much within its declared objective of a peace that they could cherish and safeguard.

Indeed, it was a dramatic switch in Jordan's foreign policy while remaining very much within the overall objective of serving the cause of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East as well as Arab national interests.

For decades, Jordan followed a docile foreign policy based on an approach warranted by the geopolitical situation of the Kingdom, the presence of giant neighbours on all sides and limited natural resources. Such a position was imposed on Jordan by the unique nature of the Kingdom's linkage with the Palestinian problem.

While the Palestinian problem was a foreign policy issue for all other Arab countries, Jordan had to live with the reality that its foreign policy considerations had to be essentially drawn up against the backdrop of the international considerations stemming from demography — the presence of a large number of Palestinians on its territory — let alone the fact that the Kingdom suffered whenever the Palestinian cause suffered.

Not that the demographic factor has changed now, but the fast pace the Middle East peace-making assumed after the groundbreaking Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord cleared the way for Jordan to break free from the constraints imposed on it by its linkage with the political context of the Palestinian problem.

As the events of the last two weeks evidence, a Jordan free from the political chains is in a much better position to stake its

positions and demand reciprocation from the international community. And, sure enough, that is what Jordan has received.

The political gains from the switch towards asserting Jordan's own national interests as an inevitable factor that the international community has to take into consideration in Middle East peace-making by far outweigh the economic benefits that we stand to gain.

For one thing, the courageous step that Prince Hassan undertook under the guidance of His Majesty King Hussein to meet with Mr. Peres has not only reemphasised the role of Jordan as an independent player in the region but also established the fact that the Kingdom can no longer be the target of Likudniks who propagate the "Jordan is Palestine" theory. Jordan is an independent and sovereign kingdom unwittingly drawn into the colonial political game and paid dearly for it. Now, it will not allow itself to be taken for granted (or for a ride as some did try to).

Second, the obvious American acceptance of the fact that there cannot be any realistic move in the peace process without Jordan and Washington's swift action to publicly recognise and elevate Jordan to the centre-stage of Middle Eastern politics as an independent player with its own lines has given a new dimension to the Kingdom's relations with the U.S. (not that the Americans were not aware of the Jordanian slot, but it used to be taken for granted for a long time).

By extension, the new American-Jordanian scenario and the newfound Amman-Washington understanding should and would lead to better relations between Jordan and its immediate Arab neighbours. It may not happen overnight, but it is inevitable that the traditional friends of Jordan are publicly in recognition of the fact that they did not treat Jordan and Jordanian fairly over the past three years (Kuwait is a different story and a different kettle of fish of course).

It was no natural turn of events that led to the course Jordanian diplomacy took in the wake of the Israel-PLO accord. It was the result of a careful evaluation of the givens in the political scene and the decision that the time was ripe for Jordan to eliminate its docile image and assert its principled positions vis-a-vis the new world order and the quest for the much-sought-after solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Again, our decision-makers have reaffirmed one simple truth: Jordan can raise itself to the challenges of the day, particularly at a crucial make-or-break phase and when its survival is, rightly or wrongly, put into question by people who have now business to do so in the first place.

Now that Jordan has accomplished what it had been trying to accomplish for decades, the path from here is by no means rosy. There will be repercussions from quarters which were taken by surprise by the turn of events. But then, no doubt, it is a calculated risk and the international community, with the U.S. at its forefront, shoulders an unshirkable responsibility towards ensuring that Jordan arrives where it has set forth for.

## China image puts it on collision course with West

By David Schlesinger  
Reuter

duction of nuclear weapons is of extremely limited significance," it said.

Chinese officials are fond of saying that the United States has exploded 25 nuclear devices for every one that China has.

Peking meets U.S. attacks on Chinese arms sales by saying that Washington is one of the world's biggest arms merchants.

"The official doesn't let the common man light a lamp but he himself burns down houses," runs a traditional proverb that often appears in official commentaries defending China's record against western attacks.

Similarly, when the West blasts Peking's human rights record, attacking its treatment of political opponents, China responds by saying that at this stage in its development the right to survival is the human right that matters most to Chinese people.

And in trade disputes, from market opening to copyright protection, China often asks for special dispensation because it is still developing its economy.

"These are all part of the same picture," said another western diplomat. "Especially when there is so much pressure all at once over so many issues, it would be impossible for a Chinese leader to back down when national pride is at stake."

When western attacks on its human rights record helped scuttle China's bid to host the 2000 Olympics — something the Communist Party had staked its pride on — it only hardened the resolve of government leaders to develop the country in their own way, diplomats believe.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Russians killed in the name of democracy with backing by the West

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The bloody events in Moscow dominated the topics in the local press in the past week, but the Middle East developments, the situation in Somalia and domestic issues were also given due coverage.

Writing under the title "Black Monday in Moscow", Al Ra'i daily said in an editorial that it was a sad conclusion for the democracy in Russia and a triumph for the U.S.-led western nations which praised the act of terrorism against the representatives of the people.

The world watched in horror while the tanks and the guns went into action against the voice of the Russians, but were more appalled by the western praise accorded to Boris Yeltsin who assassinated the fledgling democracy in his country, added the daily.

Hamadeh Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that now Mr. Yeltsin has slaughtered democracy and stifled the voice of the people, with backing from the western nations, the West ought to be ashamed of its double-standard policies.

Even if Mr. Yeltsin succeeds in imposing his rule by sheer military force, the situation in Russia will not regain its stability and democracy will not be reborn for a long time to come, said Mohammad Kharroub in Al Ra'i daily.

He said that the Russian events should give the Arabs a good lesson and open the eyes of the Arab masses and their leaders to the fact that only through democracy can a country find stability and democracy.

Once again the western nations which supported the massacre in Russia prove to the world that they are anti-freedom and anti-democracy, said Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

The bloody events in Moscow have once again showed the world that Washington and its allies continue to support dictatorship against the interests of the masses and are never inclined to support any genuine move towards democracy in other nations around the world, he added.

By massacring the representatives of the people, the writer added, Mr. Yeltsin has opted for a long and bloody civil war which can only be detrimental to his country.

Backed by the western nations, Mr. Yeltsin has suc-

ceeded for the time being to stifle the voice of the Russian people, but this state of affairs is not bound to last for long, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i.

By murdering democracy, Mr. Yeltsin has his hands stained with blood and it will be most difficult for the president to retain his seat and impossible for the western media to support a dictator from now on, said the writer. One day, he said, the opposition forces would rally behind a strong leader to topple the dictator.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, tackled the question of ending the Arab boycott against Israel, stressing that the Arabs would be committing a blunder if they take such a step.

The writer said that such a serious move can only be taken after a permanent peace has been established, serving justice to all the parties in the region. We cannot commit economic suicide, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in Washington, by allowing the Israelis to reap the fruit of their agreements with the Arabs before agreeing to a lasting and honourable peace for all, said the writer.

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Sawt Al Shaab daily demanded that Jordan be helped to overcome its economic difficulties and be compensated for its hosting the refugees and for its contribution to peace.

We want a kind of peace that would deal with issues of development, unemployment, water, security and territory, a comprehensive peace and just peace that would serve justice to all, said the writer.

The U.S. administration, noted the paper, has expressed support for a move to reduce the burdens on Jordan and it is just, right and timely for the world community to take this seriously and help the Kingdom move ahead towards the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

A writer in Al Ra'i said that all parties in the Middle East are bound to gain from peace, provided it is just and

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lasting Yousef Bouran said that peace with Israel will save the Arabs a fortune, that otherwise would have been spent on armament, but most importantly, peace would not justify the existence of martial or semi-martial and dictatorial rule in many Arab countries.

All justifications for autocratic rule now prevailing in the Arab World would vanish and more development projects would mushroom everywhere once genuine peace has been established, added the writer.

It is naive to describe the peace offers available to the Arabs as genuine peace, said Tareq Masarweh. Peace coming from Israel and the United States is one that can only ensure the interests of these enemies and not those of the Arab Nation and would only guarantee Israeli hegemony over the destiny of the Arab Nation, said the writer.

Israel and the United States are motivated by the desire to impose their economic hegemony on the Arab World and so they are offering the Arabs a kind of peace that will not take into consideration the interests of the Palestinians and the Arab countries at large.

Scores of U.N. resolutions issued since 1947 have granted the Palestinian refugees the right of return, said Mohammad Qudah, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily.

The coming talks between the Palestinian and the Israelis should not ignore this fact nor should anything distract the Palestinian negotiators from insisting that these resolutions be implemented, demanded the writer.

It should be noted here, said the writer, that while Israel is taking adamantine stands with regard to repatriating the refugees, it is going on with its programme of settling new Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands.

After Vietnam and Lebanon, the United States is bogged down in Somalia where its forces have been sustaining heavy losses for their occupation of the African country, said Al Dustour daily.

The paper said that the current reappraisal of the U.S. military presence in Somalia by the U.S. Congress and Senate could be the start of the final chapter of America's presence in the African nation where the declared purpose of its presence has been to provide aid to the starving population.

It seems, after all, that the U.S. marines who invaded Somalia did not go there to give aid to the starving people but rather to achieve a military and political objective, in the Horn of Africa, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

The writer said that American forces are in the Horn of Africa to threaten Sudan. The lives of the children of the eastern districts of Amman are endangered by the continued and persisting presence of dirt and waste water and it is high time for the municipality to move fast and deal with the situation.

## Forgotten Greek island dreams of better times under socialists

By Dina Kyriakidou  
Reuter

**CASTELLORIZO, Greece** — "Europe starts here" says the sign at the picturesque port, welcoming the few visitors who venture to the most remote of the Greek islands.

Centuries-old waterfront houses with bright paintwork and ornate ironwork testify to past riches. They stand like a stage set, hiding the ruins of the German bombing that almost flattened the island in 1943.

In 1910 Castellorizo had a population of 14,000 and about 180 sailing ships. Now about 200 people live here permanently and a few wooden fishing boats rock next to foreign luxury yachts that moor here for the night.

Six hours by boat from the tourist island of Rhodes but only 20 minutes from the Turkish town of Kash, the island known in ancient Greek as "Megisti" — the biggest — smuggles in most of its fruit, vegetables and meat from Turkey.

General elections scheduled for Oct. 10 have caused little excitement. Few islanders believe a change of government in Athens can provide long-term solutions to their troubles.

"Unless someone actually picks it up and moves it closer to the mainland, the island will always have problems," said Maria Mayaki who works at the family taverna.

But some of its most pressing ones, such as lack of water and of frequent and cheap transport, can be helped by a willing government, she said.

The days of the 1981-1989 socialist government are remembered fondly on Castellorizo, which traditionally votes for the Socialist Party (PASOK).

"PASOK built the airport, the medical centre, it started building houses for the homeless and upgraded the port," Ms. Mayaki said. "It even gave a free deep freezer and sewing machine to every family."

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Asked to remember any of the good things that the conservative government has done in the past three years, Ms. Mayaki says: "It brought us a music concert two years ago."

The new democracy government began installing a digital telephone network this year and had approved funds to finish the construction of much needed housing.

Just like Greeks elsewhere

who have suffered more than three years of economic austerity, people on Castellorizo say the government has done too little too late.

Promises of creating a passport control office have not yet materialised. Tourists from Turkey cannot spend the night on the island and the daily trip for food and basics often means outrunning the Greek navy patrol boat to avoid arrest.

The patrol boat makes nightly trips to stop Kurds and Iraqis from crossing illegally to seek asylum in Europe. It sometimes intercepts Greek fishing boats full of tomatoes and grapes bought in Kash.

Few on the island are prepared to give the conservatives a second chance. Most remember when the boat from Rhodes was free, when the ship from Piraeus would come twice a week and the island looked clean and well-kept.

"It has never looked so dirty and run-down in all the years I visited," said an Australian whose parents left the island after the war and who has returned to fix up the family house.

A recent opinion poll showed the socialists leading with 44.5 per cent support and the conservatives down to 32.4 per cent from 47 per cent they won in the 1990 election.

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## Georgia joins CIS as Yeltsin meets with Caucasus leaders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Georgian leader Edward Shevardnadze announced Friday that Georgia would join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), after he and other Transcaucasus leaders met here with President Boris Yeltsin in a bid to end the bloodshed in their troubled region.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Shevardnadze and the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan vowed to seek the help of international organisations to restore peace in their countries.

Georgia's decision to join the Russian-dominated alliance grouping most of the 15 former Soviet republics comes just two weeks after the same move by Azerbaijan, another state in the Transcaucasus wracked by war and economic hardship.

Georgia's entrance into the CIS would theoretically allow Tbilisi to call on Russian troops to defend its borders under a 1992 collective security treaty. But the membership must still be approved by the Georgian parliament.

Mr. Shevardnadze had

stated once before his readiness to join the CIS as rebel separatists in Georgia's Abkhazia region were about to seize the local capital Sukhumi.

But he rejected the move after Russia refused to send troops to quash the rebels' advance and the city fell, followed by most of the rest of Abkhazia.

On Thursday Mr. Shevardnadze was quoted by Interfax as declaring: "I have decided to present Georgia's membership in the CIS... I am sure that this step will benefit Georgia."

With Georgian membership, the CIS would group all the former Soviet republics except the three Baltic states and Moldova, whose president strongly supports membership but whose parliament has not yet ratified the move.

In a joint statement released by the Kremlin, leaders of Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed "on the need to take urgent steps to end the bloodshed" and restore peace to the Transcaucasus.

The region has been a hotbed of ethnic conflicts in-

cluding a five-year undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, the war in Abkhazia and smaller conflicts in South Ossetia, Ingushetia and Chechnya.

The leaders proclaimed their "resolve to act in strict accordance with the goals and principles of the U.N." and in line with the mediation efforts of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"The participants at the meeting envisage a way out of the crisis situation in the Caucasus through coordination of efforts... and the implementation of measures aimed at ending the armed conflicts," the joint statement said.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian described the talks between the four leaders as "absolutely open," adding that much of the discussion focused on Georgia.

Armenia signed the collective security treaty at a CIS summit meeting in Tashkent in May 1992 and was a founding member of the CIS following the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (left) welcomes his Georgian counterpart Edward Shevardnadze during a meeting at the Kremlin Friday (AFP photo)

Moscow-brokered truce.

Georgia has accused Russia of helping separatists in Abkhazia to break away, a charge Moscow denies.

Mr. Shevardnadze, fighting for his political survival, has now dropped his earlier charges against Russia.

The ambush apparently reflected a backlash of anti-Russian feelings in Georgia after last week's rout of government forces in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia despite a

towns and districts in western Georgia since Mr. Gamsakhurdia, a nationalist former dissident, returned from exile last month to launch a revolt to overthrow Mr. Shevardnadze.

Georgia's main Black Sea port of Poti fell to his forces last month and they are now just outside the town of Tskheta, about 25 kilometres west of Kutaisi, Georgia's second biggest city and regional centre.

They have captured nine

## S. African soldiers kill 5 youths in raid on 'rebel base'

PRETORIA (AFP) — South African troops killed five black youths from the same family, aged between 12 and 19, when they raided the home of a member of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) Friday in

Transkei, the PAC said.

The South African Defence Force (SADF) claimed the house in the black homeland's capital of Umtata was a base for the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the PAC's guerrilla army headquarters in Tanzania.

An SADF statement said five people were killed in the dawn raid in the nominally independent homeland after they "offered resistance," but did not give the ages of the dead.

PAC Deputy President Johnson Mlambo said the victims — 16-year-old twins, their 12-year-old brother and two cousins, aged 19 and 12 — were asleep when they were shot in the head with Uzi sub-machine guns.

"There exists no evidence

whatsoever that there was resistance from the sleeping schoolchildren," he said at a press conference.

"The house was never an APLA base. There were no weapons in the house nor any files belonging to the PAC or APLA."

PAC spokesman Waters To-

bote said the father of the three brothers, Sceculo Mpemba, was the owner of the house and a member of the PAC, but that he and his wife were away at the time of the raid.

Mr. Mpemba told the South African Press Association in Umtata that his children and their cousins had no links with the PAC.

A correspondent for the East Cape News Agency (ECNA) reported that the bodies of the five victims were laid out in the blood spattered lounge of the home. A trail of blood led to a bedroom and there were signs that the front door had been forced open.

## Cambodian troops drive towards Khmer Rouge northern stronghold

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian government troops have begun a "significant" offensive into the northern stronghold of Anlong Veng, the base of notorious Khmer Rouge General Ta Mok near the border with Thailand, government and diplomatic sources said Friday.

Government troops had advanced to within 10 kilometres of Anlong Veng from the south and west, but the advance was slowed by rain and resulting muddy road conditions, one Western diplomatic source said.

"I would call it quite significant," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister General Tea Banh told AFP that about five divisions of unspecified strengths were involved in the fighting, and that troops captured two villages, Cheung and Otpao, defend-

ing the Anlong Veng stronghold.

"The Khmer Rouge are attacking throughout the area, and the government is pushing them back," the general said.

He did not have casualty figures.

The diplomatic sources said the government began the attack last week as part of its declared policy of using both military and diplomatic means to counter the Khmer Rouge.

Reports from Thailand indicated that Cambodian troops hoped to seize the area by Sunday.

Anlong Veng, with about 1,500 guerrillas defending, is one of the most fortified areas of Cambodia. General Ta Mok directs and resupplies all divisions operating in northern and central Cambodia above the Tonle Sap Lake, including the embattled Kompong Thom

province.

It is about 100 kilometres north of the Angkor Wat complex in Siem Reap, and the pitted roads leading to it are mined.

If it is captured, the govern-

ment will have succeeded in wiping out the Khmer Rouge's entire command structure for northern Cambodia, leaving only the headquarters of Palim in western Battambang province.

The government, including King Norodom Sihanouk, has demanded that the guerrillas give up their zones of control in order to join the new government as advisors. The details are to be worked out at round-table talks in November.

If Anlong Veng is in govern-

ment hands by then, it will give Cambodian leaders significant bargaining powers at the talks,

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1993

## Spoletto trims programme for '94

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The Spoleto Festival U.S.A., which has lost money for two straight years, will present fewer performances during the 1994 season, the arts festival has announced. The festival, founded by composer Gian Carlo Menotti, will be cut to 12 days and around 100 events. Last year's festival presented 118 performances during a 17-day run. "This is a step on the road to meeting our financial challenges," Marcus Overton, the festival's executive director, said. "Far from being in trouble, we are responding in a responsible way." Mr. Overton said cutting the festival by five days would save at least \$500,000. Next year's budget is expected to be about \$3.8 million. "Because of the economic slump that is everywhere, everybody is cutting down on things. I don't think it is time for us to celebrate in an extravagant way," Mr. Menotti told the Associated Press by telephone from Monte Carlo. "We can do a beautiful festival within two weeks. That way we can save an awful lot of expense. I'm just following the general trend to be very careful for one year," he said. This year's deficit was about \$790,000. The 1992 deficit was \$536,000, some of which has been retired, Mr. Menotti said. Mr. Overton said the books were being audited and complete figures would be released during the Spoleto board meeting in New York next month.

## Diana Ross wins achievement award

LONDON (AP) — Pop star Diana Ross, who received a lifetime achievement award Thursday night, reminisced about her early days in industry and said, "it seems like yesterday. I love the music. I have been very lucky, although it has been a lot of hard work but it is all down to the selection of the songs and the musicians and they have all been wonderful." said the glamorous 49-year-old actress and singer. The award, from EMI Records and the Guinness Book of Records, called her the most successful female pop artist of all time. At the presentation party at the St. James's Court Hotel, Ms. Ross also spoke of fellow-singer Michael Jackson, who faces child sex-abuse allegations. "I have always worried about him because he is a very sensitive man," she said. "I hope it does not ruin his career and I hope there is no truth in this because I care very deeply about him. I hope that he can survive through it because it must be terrible. Something like this can ruin a person's life." Ms. Ross said she divides her time between her homes in Connecticut and Europe after marrying Norwegian shipping magnate Arne Naess in 1985.

On Thursday, French President Francois Mitterrand called on the European Community (EC), the United Nations and other groups to take urgent measures to ensure the delivery of relief supplies for war victims.

Mr. Mitterrand also blamed the continuing bloodshed on the EC's delay in ratifying the Maastricht Treaty aimed at creating a common foreign policy and fostering eventual defence cooperation.

Countries such as France were expected to press for a strong statement on the 18-month-old conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina which Western diplomacy has been helpless to resolve.

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"I'm not sure if I am going to move here to Europe but I am here a lot because my husband is based here," she said. "I have been looking at schools and places in London because as you get older the commuting and the jetlag only gets worse."

"My husband tried to open his business in shipping in America but it is far better for him from London and Bermuda so that is where he is based."

Ferre last but not least

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Gianfranco Ferre was not in a good mood Thursday. The usually jovial architect-turned-designer, whose round figure and friendly, bearded face have earned him the nickname "teddy bear," walked down the runway at the end of his spring-summer 1994 showing, at the Milan Trade Fair. The applause was enthusiastic, but out in the audience he saw too many empty seats. Absent from the runway too, were the top models Ferre usually uses to show off his glamorous clothes. Had the fashion crowd deserted one of the favourite names in Italian fashion? No, they had merely rushed off to Paris to catch the start of the French showings. Despite formal protests by the Italians, the Chambre Syndicale, which runs French fashion, moved their ready-to-wear calendar up to start the day Milan ended, eliminating the usual weekend break between the two fashion weeks. The Ferre collection deserved better.

Somewhere between the laws of the Great Gatsby and the shores of Morocco, the structured but feminine collection was built around the mannish three-piece suit, the silk bathrobe, and the flowing caftan. Scarves play a big role in Ferre's summer fashion, in handkerchief hemmed long shirts, shawl-like sarong skirts and layered evening gowns.

## Nuclear test ban vital — N. Zealand premier

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Friday that continuing the informal nuclear-test ban was "absolutely vital," in response to reports that France might resume its testing program in the South Pacific.

"Such restraint is particularly important to create the right atmosphere for the start of negotiations aimed at achieving a formal global cessation of nuclear testing, an objective (to which) New Zealand has long attached enormous importance," Mr. Bolger said in a statement.

The statement came days after China became the first nation to conduct a nuclear test, which analysts said could prompt France to follow suit.

Mr. Bolger said he was encouraged that it was not French President Francois Mitterrand who was suggesting an immediate resumption of nuclear testing at France's Mururoa Atoll, which is about 5,000 kilometres (3,000 miles) northeast of New Zealand.

But French Defence Minister Francois Leotard indicated this week that his nation may soon have to resume testing.

However, a spokesman at the French embassy here said Friday that Mr. Leotard's comments were made in the context of presenting his budget.

This budget had to make financial provisions for tests until any formal ban was introduced, the spokesman said.

"The resumption of nuclear testing, or not, at Mururoa will be a political decision from the highest level of the state, which is President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur," the spokesman said.

Government troops had advanced to within 10 kilometres of Anlong Veng from the south and west, but the advance was slowed by rain and resulting muddy road conditions, one Western diplomatic source said.

"I would call it quite significant," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister General Tea Banh told AFP that about five divisions of unspecified strengths were involved in the fighting, and that troops captured two villages, Cheung and Otpao, defend-

ing the Anlong Veng stronghold.

"The Khmer Rouge are attacking throughout the area, and the government is pushing them back," the general said.

He did not have casualty figures.

The diplomatic sources said the government began the attack last week as part of its declared policy of using both military and diplomatic means to counter the Khmer Rouge.

Reports from Thailand indicated that Cambodian troops hoped to seize the area by Sunday.

Anlong Veng, with about

1,500 guerrillas defending, is one of the most fortified areas of Cambodia. General Ta Mok directs and resupplies all divisions operating in northern and central Cambodia above the Tonle Sap Lake, including the embattled Kompong Thom

## Novelist Morrison wins Nobel Literature Prize

PRINCETON, New Jersey (Agencies) — Novelist Toni Morrison, the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, says her lyrical works such as *Beloved* and *Jazz* were inspired by "huge silences in literature."

"Winning as an American is very special — but winning as a black American is a knockout," Ms. Morrison, 62, said Thursday in her office at Princeton University after the prize was announced.

In making the award, the Swedish academy called Ms. Morrison "a literary artist of the first rank," whose work is "unusually finely wrought and cohesive, yet at the same time rich in variation."

Ms. Morrison said she was glad her 87-year-old mother is alive to share her joy, particularly because four other relatives died this year. She also said she had telephoned her sister in Lorain, Ohio, where Ms. Morrison grew up.

Ms. Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in the steel mill town of Lorain, the second of four children of Alabama sharecroppers who had migrated north. She studied humanities at Howard University and earned a master's degree in American Literature from Cornell University in 1955. She is divorced and has

two sons.

A senior editor at Random House for nearly 20 years, she became a professor at Princeton in 1989.

The literature prize was endowed by Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who also established prizes in medicine, physics, chemistry and peace, to be awarded next week in Stockholm along with the Nobel memorial Prize in Economics. That was established by the Swedish Central Bank in 1969.

Ms. Morrison is the eighth woman to win the literature prize since it was first awarded in 1901. The last woman to win was Nadine Gordimer of South Africa, in 1991; the most recent American winner was the Soviet-born poet Joseph Brodsky in 1987.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Nelson Mandela and President F.W. De Klerk are favoured to win the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, with the Salvation Army jointly for their work to end apartheid and establish democracy in South Africa.

The five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee decided the winner of the prestigious annual award, to be announced on Oct. 15, at a secretive meeting in Oslo.

The prize is worth 6.7 million Swedish crowns (\$837,000) this year.

Mr. Helleisen said Mr. Mandela, nominated repeatedly in recent decades, and Mr. De Klerk could win the award jointly for their work to end apartheid and establish democracy in South Africa.

But the peace process has

been marred by violence —

more than 1,300 people have

been killed in South Africa

since July.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 50 die in Sri Lankan landslide

## What's next for Jordan?

CHICAGO (AP) — Can a man who knows how to fly learn how to walk behind a lawnmower? Michael Jordan says he can — and will. But what else is in the air for a man who has thrilled millions?

"I'm capable of relaxing," the former Chicago Bulls superstar said, smiling.

Jordan's personal scheduler, Barbara Allen, said Thursday that relaxation might not come easy for the player who took only nine years to score 21,541 points in the NBA.

"He's not going to cut back at all," Allen said from the Washington offices of Jordan's agent, David Falk. "Obviously, the only thing he's left is the NBA. He's always kept very busy off the court."

Jordan didn't have many explanations for life after the twilight Wednesday, when he announced his retirement from pro basketball.

Time with his family; some golf; pickup games, and pro basketball as a spectator sport were among his thoughts about the future.

"I'm going to watch the grass grow, and I'm going to have 'cut it,'" Jordan said.

But with an estimated \$28 million in commercial endorsements and numerous charitable commitments at stake, the 30-year-old Jordan may find himself calling the kid next door for help with the lawn.

"He has 12 long-term endorsement deals; he'll do commercial filming," Allen said. "Hopefully he'll be even more of a spokesman for Nike, Wilson Sporting Goods and Gatorade."

Jordan undoubtedly will continue to indulge in his second sporting love, golf — a suggestion that some fellow duffers found alarming.

Jordan hopes leaving basketball also will lessen the high-intensity celebrity status that has kept him from leading a normal life.

His friend and competitor, Charles Barkley, said the heavy piece of Jordan's celebrity baggage.

"One thing that was weird about Michael is that whenever we're together, we're in a hotel room because he doesn't ever go out," the Phoenix Suns star said. "So I don't ever want to be in that predicament — where I can't go out and do anything."

Allen said it's too soon to map Jordan's next stage of life.

"We've not even started to focus on the things he will do immediately," she said.

But Jordan seemed convinced the gap he created by walking away from basketball



Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan throws out the first pitch of the American League Basketball Championship Series Oct. 5 (AFP photo)

was a gap that will be easily filled.

"If I get a pot belly, then I start exercising," Jordan said.

**Gambling probe a factor in Jordan retirement**

It was the question that never came up: was the NBA's investigation into Jordan's gambling a contributing factor in his decision to retire?

The answer is no, at least for now because NBA commissioner David Stern said the ongoing investigation wasn't finished and Jordan wasn't informed of any of the findings before he announced his retirement.

Stern said there was "absolutely no connection" between the probe and the retirement, telling the Washington Post: "The investigation was nearly complete. We had a meeting scheduled but we deferred it because of this. Michael said he would still come in because he wants the loop to be completed."

Jordan did contact Stern Tuesday to tell him of his decision to retire, NBA spokesman Jan Hubbard said.

Jordan said Wednesday he was leaving the NBA after nine seasons with the Chicago Bulls because he had nothing left to prove and was no longer "hungry." He also said he was moving toward retiring even before the murder of his father two months ago.

But it's the league's gambling probe that still follows Jordan. And until it's completed.

There is no timetable when the current investigation into Jordan's gambling will be completed.

NEW YORK (AP) — China's two record-breaking running champions passed dope tests but 11 other athletes tested positive after last month's National Games, the official Xinhua News Agency said Thursday. China has been stung by allegations that world champions Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia, who set world records in the 10,000, 3,000 and 1,500 metres at the national games, had used banned drugs to achieve their astounding pace. It quoted a spokesman for last month's games as saying that of the 534 athletes tested, 11 proved positive. Meanwhile in London, Britain's Sally Gunnell was named Thursday the world's top woman athlete of the year, just ahead of Wang. Readers of Athletics International, a newsletter with subscribers in 45 countries, voted for 400 metres world record holder Gunnell. Gunnell was also named Thursday by the European Athletic Association as European Athlete of the Year. Olympic champion Linford Christie was named top European man for his 100 metres triumph in Stuttgart. But could only finish fourth in the Athletics International poll which was won by Algeria's new world mile record holder Noureddine Morelli.

### Cyclist completes round-the-world trip

BOSTON (AP) — David Ginsberg and his bicycle crossed deserts, scaled mountains, navigated the Norwegian fjords and dodged water buffalo in Southeast Asia, only to contend with downtown Boston traffic. Ginsberg managed to arrive intact, if a few minutes late, Thursday at the end of his three-year, 24,300-mile (39,100-metre) bicycle trek through 41 nations to raise money for the Boston-based famine-relief organization OXFAM America. He raised about \$10,000 for OXFAM travelling down the east coast of the United States, then around the Caribbean and South America, then flying to Europe and pedalling across the Arctic circle, the former Soviet republics, the Middle East and Eastern Africa, and finally from Siberia across Mongolia, through China, Tibet, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam. He wore out four brake shoes and six pairs of gloves and had 60 flat tires.

**Tomba sets sights on Lillehammer**

ROME (R) — Italian Alpine skiing Star Alberto Tomba has said his sights are fixed on Olympic gold rather than World Cup glory in the coming season. "My objective is the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer where I want to arrive in the right shape to collect at least one medal of the right colour," Italian newspapers Thursday quoted Tomba as saying. "The World Cup is of less and less interest to me, we'll see how it goes: They've already deprived me of it twice," added Tomba, who has won three Olympic golds and a silver in a glittering career. The sport's greatest showman, Tomba only skis the slalom and giant slalom disciplines and has never won the overall World Cup title. He feels he has often been penalised by the points scoring system and calendar in which there are more downhill races.

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**Land of Dreams**

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**CONCORD 'IP'**

Wesley Snips - in

**New Jack City**

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

## Korda reveals heart fears; Ivanisevic in semis

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Number six seed Petr Korda swept into the semi-finals at the \$875,000 Australian Indoor men's tennis championships Friday, then revealed how he feared his career could be over because of a heart scare.

Korda, 25, from the Czech Republic, cruised into the last four with a 6-4, 6-1 straight sets win over Australian Davis cup player Mark Woodforde in 75 minutes.

Korda's victory takes the world's 11th ranked player a step closer to his first title since being struck down by a heart virus in April.

"The doctor told me I had a heart inflammation. I then spent probably the worst five days of my life," said Korda who will play South African Wayne Ferreira in the semi-final Saturday.

Korda slipped from number five to a low of 13 last month as he struggled to regain fitness after recovering from the virus attack.

"I was very tired and I couldn't see the ball properly. I have since changed my diet and I'm trying to be healthy," said Korda, a finalist at last year's French Open.

The Czech blasted past Woodforde, conqueror of number three seed Andrei

Medvedev in the previous round, with a characteristic display of power serving and flashing ground strokes.

At 190 cm tall and weighing 72 kgs, Korda is working off court to build his stamina and strength in a bid to stave off future health problems.

"I am not going to be a Schwarzenegger. I am not going to be huge but I have to make my muscles stronger.

Ferreira, 22, and ranked 22 in the world, booked his passage with a 5-7 6-4 6-2 win in 120 minutes over qualifier Jonathan Carter of the United States.

Goran Ivanisevic launched an intimidatory serving attack on Mikael Pernfors on the way to the semi-finals of the championships Friday.

Ivanisevic, the defending champion, aimed his first serve at Pernfors' body, a blurring 188 kmp (117 mph) projectile, to put the frighteners on the Swede and set the tone for a 6-3, 6-2 victory in 67 minutes.

The Croat, who has clocked the fastest serve of the tournament at 200 kmh, made no secret of his game plan.

"My coach Bob Brett told me to serve straight at him on the first point, and that's what I did," said the world No. 9. "He was watching him against

Jamie Morgan and he was standing back and then sneaking in ... and I served, and it was a pretty good serve."

"I tried to scare him, that was my tactic, he's shorter than me and I wanted to scare him from the beginning then he's a little bit afraid.

Pernfors admitted he had been unsettled by the experience.

"I have never played him before and I guess you don't realise it until you play him, but on the first serve he really scared me ... he hit it right at me, and I thought I was going to die, I was in shock after the first serve."

"The big problem is that you don't see where he's going with the serve, I had no idea."

"I tried to take three or four steps forward to meet the ball, but I had to back up, I wanted to come out of there with my head sitting on my body."

**Navratilova zips into quarterfinals**

In Zurich, top-seeded Martina Navratilova eased into the quarterfinals of the \$750,000 European Indoors with a 6-0, 6-4 win Thursday over Russian qualifier Elena Makarova.

"I still think I'm faster than 99 per cent of the players out

there," Navratilova, 36, said after the second-round win.

The U.S. player is seeking her first win at Zurich. She took over the top seeding when six-time winner Steffi Graf of Germany dropped out with a foot injury.

Navratilova, the world's third-ranked woman player, next faces unseeded Dutchwoman Miriam Oremans.

No. 6 seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, who lost the 1991 final to Graf, defeated Croatian talent Iva Majoli, 6-3, 6-4, for a quarterfinal clash against fifth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus downed Olympic doubles champion Gigi Fernandez of the United States, 6-1, 6-4, to set up a quarterfinal with No. 4 seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragnieri of Switzerland.

**Bruguera upset in Toulouse**

In Toulouse, top seed Sergi Bruguera was upset by Morocco's Youness El Aynaoui 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, (7-5) Thursday in the second round of the \$400,000 Toulouse Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Bruguera is ranked No. 4 in

the world compared to El Aynaoui's No. 76, Bruguera, the French Open champion, won the Bordeaux tournament last month, his first title on a hard court. The game surface, Greenset, is being used at Toulouse.

However the 22-year-old Moroccan was able to handle Bruguera in a match of more than 2 hours, 36 minutes that ended well after midnight. El Aynaoui fought off a 6-5 deficit in the final set to even it and take the tiebreaker, 7-2.

France's Arnaud Boetsch and compatriot Rodolphe Gilbert also advanced to the quarterfinals. Boetsch, the No. 5 seed, beat Jonathan Stark of the United States, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Gilbert upset No. 8 seed Marcos Ondruska of South Africa, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, the No. 3 seed, edged Guillaume Raoult of France, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), and No. 4 seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland eliminated Stephane Simon of France 6-4, 6-2.

Leander Paes of India, who was a wild card invitation and upset No. 7 seed Marc Goeller of Germany in the first round, lost. Christian Bergstrom of Sweden beat Paes, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

## World Cup

### Africa's places to be decided this weekend

By Mark Gleeson

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Top scorers Rachidi Yekini of Nigeria and Zimbabwe's agent Sawu take centre stage again this weekend as Africa's World Cup qualifying rounds reach a climax with three teams winning berths at the 1994 U.S. finals.

The burly Yekini has scored half of Nigeria's 16 goals in seven qualifiers and helped to put his country just one point away from a first appearance in the finals.

Nigeria need a draw in the second round. Group A match away to Algeria to book their place ahead of African champions Ivory Coast.

Nigeria's Dutch-born Coach Clemens Westerhoff says he expects another goal from Yekini, who turns 30 later this month.

Sawu, scorer of seven goals in 10 World Cup qualifiers for Zimbabwe, will have a tougher task adding to his tally in the Group C decider against Cameroon in Yaounde Sunday.

The 21-year-old, who recently had a trial at English Premier League club Liverpool, needs to inspire the unfancied southern Africans to an away win to deny Cameroon, quarter-finalists in Italy in 1990, a third appearance in the finals.

Sawu will take some comfort from the suspension of tough Cameroon defender Victor Ndipl-Akem, sent off against Guinea in July.

But the odds are stacked against injury-plagued Zimbabwe, who were without Peter Ndlovu and captain Ephraim Chawanda in their 1-0 win over Guinea in Harare two weeks ago.

Cameroon have not lost a World Cup qualifier at home since a 2-1 defeat by Congo in 1976 and beat Zimbabwe 2-0 in their last match in Yaounde in the qualifiers for the 1992 finals in Spain.

That match marked the debut of Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, back in goal for Zimbabwe 13 years later.

In Sunday's other decider, Zambia need only draw away to Morocco in Casablanca in group B to go through.

### World Cup tickets to be sold by 'random selection'

NEW YORK (AP) — World Cup officials announced Thursday they will use a sort of electronic lottery to sell the approximately 150,000 tickets available to the American public for the quarterfinal, semifinal, third-place and championship match.

"When you don't have enough tickets to go around, you're going to get criticism," said World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg. "The only thing we can do is try to make the system fair."

World Cup officials promised in the spring that tickets sold to the American public would be handled in a random manner, saying there was no rush to order because the date of ordering the tickets was of no consequence.

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## Moscow emergency could continue as Yeltsin moves to weed out challengers

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Moscow's state of emergency could be extended a week to Oct. 17, said the Interfax news agency Friday citing officials, as the capital's military commander warned of a tough response if weekend protests in the capital were to degenerate.

General Alexander Kulikov, in charge of enforcing the state of emergency, warned that any groups "aiming to destabilise the situation in Moscow will be firmly crushed," Itar-Tass reported.

Mr. Kulikov's office said an extension of the state of emergency was needed to round up armed hardliners who escaped the battered Russian parliament when troops loyal to President Boris Yeltsin crushed parliament-led rebellion, Interfax reported.

However, a final decision on prolonging the state of emergency — decreed five days ago at the height of the insurrection against Yeltsin's decision to dissolve the legislature — has yet to be taken, Gen. Kulikov's office said.

An 11:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) to 5:00 a.m. curfew in Moscow is still in force.

In a separate development the Justice Ministry announced the suspension Friday of imprisoned Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi's People's Party of Free Russia and of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Interfax reported.

The decision followed reports from Gen. Kulikov's office and the Russian public prosecutor's office, the agency said.

On Tuesday Free Russia, jointly headed by Rutskoi and Vasily Lipitsk, severely criticised Mr. Rutskoi's role in the bloody rebellion in which around 170 people died.

Mr. Rutskoi was arrested along with Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov after the rebellion collapsed following a tank-backed army assault on the Parliament Monday.

On Tuesday the Justice Ministry suspended the activi-

ties of 16 Communist and ultra-nationalist parties.

A senior aide of Mr. Yeltsin said that Russia's main Communist Party should be banned from December elections and warned conservative regional councils against defying the president's emergency rule.

Sergei Filatov, chief of Mr. Yeltsin's personal administration, said the Communist Party had discredited itself in last week's uprising.

The public prosecutor's office said investigators were considering charges of "organising mass disturbances" against the leaders of the uprising.

If tried and found guilty on such charges, Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov could face up to 15 years in jail.

Mr. Filatov told a news conference: "My feeling is that those who took part in the action should not participate in these elections."

Asked about the absence of the Communist Party from a list of eight suspended by Mr. Yeltsin for the duration of a state of emergency in Moscow, Mr. Filatov replied:

"If the party is not there, then perhaps another, separate order should be issued."

Communist party leader Gennady Zyuganov backed parliament in the conflict with Mr. Yeltsin. But unlike radical communist Viktor Anpilov and nationalist Ilya Konstantinov, he played no conspicuous role in the violence.

Mr. Filatov called on Mr. Konstantinov and Deputy Parliament Chairman Yuri Voronin, on the run since pro-Yeltsin forces stormed the legislature's White House headquarters on Monday, to return to the authorities.

Mr. Anpilov was arrested by security ministry agents at a country house south of Moscow on Thursday.

Mr. Rutskoi and Mr. Khasbulatov, who accuse Mr. Yeltsin of dictatorial ambitions, are now being held in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

Mr. Filatov said he was convinced that December elections called by Mr. Yeltsin will be held in which the court will operate."



Palestinian women with pictures of their imprisoned sons are among a few hundred Jews and Arabs demonstrating in Nablus Thursday for the immediate release of thousands of Palestinians held by Israel in prisons in the occupied territories and in Israel (AFP photo)

## Israel said to have agreed to free upto 6,000 detainees

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials are preparing a list of up to 6,000 Palestinians to be released from Israeli detention after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to free prisoners during a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat in Cairo, Palestinian sources said Friday.

The court had brought the country "to the brink of civil war," Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday in announcing its suspension.

It had become a political weapon and its chairman, Valery Zorkin, had abused his position by participating in politics, Mr. Yeltsin added.

The president's remarks were seen as a reference to the several decisions taken by the court in support of the conservative-dominated parliament in its power struggle with Mr. Yeltsin.

The court's interim chairman, Nikolai Vitruk, admitted that the court had become an "organ of political struggle rather than an organ of justice."

"President Yeltsin has not abandoned the idea of such a democratic institution (as a constitutional court)," Mr. Vitruk said. "It is a matter of finding the format (in which the court will operate)."

lished by several Arabic-language dailies in Jerusalem.

According to the source, an agreement was made three weeks ago among all "security" prisoners held in Israeli jails, particularly those from the occupied Gaza Strip, where Hamas, the most vocal opponent of the Israel-PLO accord, is very active.

The sources said PLO officials in Tunis faced a major hurdle: an Israeli refusal to release prisoners whom they see as opponents of the landmark Israel-PLO accord signed on Sept. 13, coupled with refusal by prisoners themselves to be categorised.

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails have reached an agreement that they would refuse to accept a deal which distinguishes between opponents and proponents of the accord," said a Palestinian source. "As such, many of them, including Fatah loyalists who support the accord, might simply refuse to leave detention as a political message to the PLO leadership."

"This could complicate things," added the source. Fatah is the mainstream PLO faction headed by Mr. Arafat.

In a letter to Mr. Arafat published Thursday, detainees affiliated with Fatah sharply criticised their leader.

"Who will guarantee you that we will vote for you in the coming elections for the legislative council? We have the power to rebel and we will never accept the peace agreement while there is a single prisoner left in Israeli prisons," said the letter pub-

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